



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

June 18, 2015

Mr. Eduardo DeMesa
Acting Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
ATTN: Mr. Larry Smith (CESPL-PD-RN)
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90017

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Encinitas-Solana Beach Coastal Storm
Damage Reduction Project Integrated Feasibility Report, San Diego County, California
(CEQ#20150134)

Dear Mr. DeMesa:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA supports the Corps' recommendation of a smaller volume project in the FEIS. The reduced volume alternatives for Encinitas and Solana Beach, because they would result in reductions in both the initial fill and the renourishment volumes from the original project identified in the DEIS, should result in fewer impacts to sensitive resources.

The EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and provided comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on February 26, 2013. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information (EC-2) due to concerns regarding a range of issues, including: potential impacts to water quality; the source and quality of beach nourishment materials; floodplain management; cumulative impacts; and air quality. We recommended that the Final EIS give greater consideration to the project's potential impacts and mitigation needs under high sea level scenarios, and the need for monitoring and mitigation plans to address environmental impacts from proposed fill activities. We also recommended that the Corps include, in the FEIS, the results of a comprehensive biological survey of the Encinitas-Solana Beach shoreline.

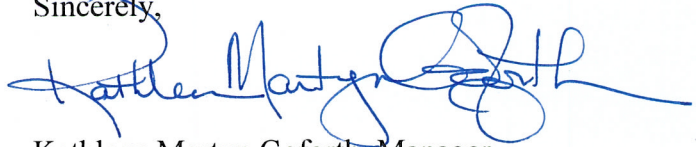
We thank the Corps for the detailed responses, included in the FEIS, to the concerns that we raised in our comment letter submitted for the DEIS. In particular, we appreciate the additional information provided on the potential for high sea level scenarios, the inclusion of the evaluation (provided in accordance with Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act) of the potential effects of discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, and the Corps' identification of the reduced volume alternative for Encinitas and Solana Beach as the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.

We also would like to thank the Corps for including detailed emissions calculations in the FEIS that had been inadvertently omitted from the Draft Integrated Report, and for modifying the Final Integrated

Report to incorporate several of EPA's recommended measures to reduce air quality impacts.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Jason Gerdes, the lead reviewer for this project. Mr. Gerdes can be reached at (415) 947-4221 or gerdes.jason@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Martyn Goforth", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Section